

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.(cancelled)

2.(cancelled)

3.(cancelled)

4.(previously presented): A communication line control method comprising:

providing a plurality of communication terminal devices each incorporating communication functions containing voice communications and data communications, accommodating a plurality of communication lines connected to a network, and capable of controlling an arbitrary call;

causing, if said plurality of communication terminal devices forming a plurality of groups and when a control request with respect to a specified call is made on an arbitrary communication terminal device within one group or when a state of the call changes, a line control unit of said arbitrary communication terminal device to give broadcasting notifications of a change in control reservation state with respect to the specified call to said line control units of said plurality of communication terminal devices within other groups;

causing said line control unit of said arbitrary communication terminal device, after receiving acknowledgements about the control reservation state from said line control units, having received the broadcasting notifications, of said communication terminal devices within other groups, to give a right of control of the call to a distributed control module of said arbitrary communication terminal device that utilizes the communication lines; and

causing said distributed control module of said arbitrary communication terminal device to execute exclusive control between said communication terminal devices within other groups by unifying the states about the specified call between said communication terminal devices of other groups without being aware of the communication lines.

5.(currently amended): A communication line control method comprising:

providing a plurality of communication terminal devices each incorporating communication functions containing voice communications and data communications, accommodating a plurality of communication lines connected to a network, and capable of controlling an arbitrary call;

setting one arbitrary communication terminal device as a centralized management communication terminal device of which a line control unit manages in centralization said other communication terminal devices;

allocating, when controlling a specified call by said other communication terminal devices, a right of control to said other communication terminal devices by said centralized management communication terminal device on the basis of preset condition data; and

causing a distributed control module of said arbitrary communication terminal device to execute exclusive control between said other communication terminal devices that utilize the communication by unifying the states about the specified call between said other communication terminal devices without being aware of the communication lines;

monitoring a processing load within a self communication terminal device and a load on the communication line in said line control unit of each of said communication terminal

devices or in said line control unit of said centralized management communication terminal device; and

managing a plurality of calls by switching over a mode of the line control in said line control unit of each of said communication terminal devices or in said line control unit of said centralized management communication terminal device on the basis of the condition data preset corresponding to a state of this load.

6.(currently amended): A communication line control method ~~according to claim 4 or 5, further~~ comprising:

providing a plurality of communication terminal devices each incorporating communication functions containing voice communications and data communications, accommodating a plurality of communication lines connected to a network, and capable of controlling an arbitrary call;

causing, if said plurality of communication terminal devices forming a plurality of groups and when a control request with respect to a specified call is made on an arbitrary communication terminal device within one group or when a state of the call changes, a line control unit of said arbitrary communication terminal device to give broadcasting notifications of a change in control reservation state with respect to the specified call to said line control units of said plurality of communication terminal devices within other groups;

causing said line control unit of said arbitrary communication terminal device, after receiving acknowledgements about the control reservation state from said line control units, having received the broadcasting notifications, of said communication terminal devices

within other groups, to give a right of control of the call to a distributed control module of said arbitrary communication terminal device that utilizes the communication lines;

causing said distributed control module of said arbitrary communication terminal device to execute exclusive control between said communication terminal devices within other groups by unifying the states about the specified call between said communication terminal devices of other groups without being aware of the communication lines;

monitoring a processing load within a self communication terminal device and a load on the communication line in said line control unit of each of said communication terminal devices or in said line control unit of said centralized management communication terminal device; and

managing a plurality of calls by switching over a mode of the line control in said line control unit of each of said communication terminal devices or in said line control unit of said centralized management communication terminal device on the basis of the condition data preset corresponding to a state of this load.

7.(currently amended): A communication line control method comprising:

providing a plurality of communication terminal devices each incorporating communication functions containing voice communications and data communications, and accommodating a plurality of communication lines connected to a network;

notifying, if there occurs a change in state of one arbitrary communication terminal device, of this state to a line control unit of said other communication terminal device from an interface of said one arbitrary communication terminal device that has a function of

operating with an independent power supply, the independent power supply for the interface is independent from a line control unit of said one arbitrary communication terminal device;

updating a condition table in said line control unit of said other communication terminal device; and

executing alternatively in said other communication terminal device the line control related to said one arbitrary communication terminal device exhibiting the change in state.

8.(cancelled)

9.(cancelled)

10.(original): A communication line control system comprising:

a plurality of communication terminal devices each incorporating communication functions containing voice communications and data communications, accommodating a plurality of communication lines connected to a network, and capable of controlling an arbitrary call;

wherein if said plurality of communication terminals form a plurality of groups and when a control request with respect to a specified call is made on an arbitrary communication terminal device within one group or when a state of the call changes, a line control unit of said arbitrary communication terminal device gives broadcasting notifications of a change in control reservation state with respect to the specified call to said line control units of said plurality of communication terminal devices within other groups,

said line control unit of said arbitrary communication terminal device, after receiving acknowledgements about the control reservation state from said line control units, having received the broadcasting notifications, of said communication terminal devices within other groups, gives a right of control of the call to a distributed control module of said arbitrary communication terminal device that utilizes the communication lines, and

said distributed control module thus executes exclusive control between said communication terminal devices within other groups.

11.(currently amended): A communication line control system comprising:

a plurality of communication terminal devices each incorporating communication functions containing voice communications and data communications, accommodating a plurality of communication lines connected to a network, and capable of controlling an arbitrary call,

wherein when a line control unit of one arbitrary communication terminal device manages in centralization said other communication terminal devices, said centralized management communication terminal device allocates, in the case of controlling a specified call by said other communication terminal devices, a right of control to said other communication terminal devices on the basis of preset condition data, and

a distributed control module of said arbitrary communication terminal device utilizing the communication lines executes exclusive control between said communication terminal devices by unifying the states about the specified call between said other communication terminal devices without being aware of the communication lines;

wherein said system is capable of monitoring a processing load within a self communication terminal device and a load on the communication line in said line control unit of each of said communication terminal devices or in said line control unit of said centralized management communication terminal device, and

managing a plurality of calls by switching over a mode of the line control in said line control unit of each of said communication terminal devices or in said line control unit of said centralized management communication terminal device on the basis of the condition data preset corresponding to a state of this load.

12.(currently amended): A communication line control system comprising:

a plurality of communication terminal devices each incorporating communication functions containing voice communications and data communications, and accommodating a plurality of communication lines connected to a network;

wherein if there occurs a change in state of one arbitrary communication terminal device, an interface of said one arbitrary communication terminal device that has a function of operating with an independent power supply gives a notification of a state to line control units of said other communication terminal devices, the independent power supply for the interface is independent from a line control unit of said one arbitrary communication terminal device;

condition tables are updated in said line control units of said other communication terminal devices, and

the line related to said one arbitrary communication terminal device exhibiting a change in state is controlled alternatively by said other communication terminal device.